

4 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sponsorship of Mechanical Translation Research by CIA

1. Mrs. Helen Brownson, Program Director for Scientific Documentation, National Science Foundation called to say that the Foundation had had an inquiry from Senator Lyndon Johnson's sub-committee concerning the progress to date in the field of mechanical translation and an estimate of projected requirement.
2. Mrs. Brownson's inquiry to me was whether or not she could reveal to the sub-committee the fact that CIA was and had been a co-sponsor in mechanical translation research.
3. It was my opinion that the revelation of CIA sponsorship of this project, if disclosed publicly, would be a form of favorable publicity for the Agency.
4. I called General C.P. Cabell and explained the requirement to him and gave him my recommendation as outlined in paragraph 3 above. He approved my authorizing Mrs. Brownson to say that CIA had been a co-sponsor in the mechanical translation research. I checked out the point also with John Warner, Legislative Counsel, who also agreed to this release.
5. I called Mrs. Brownson and authorized her to include the information that CIA had been a co-sponsor in mechanical translation research in her report. I asked Mrs. Brownson if we might be provided a copy of the report.


Deputy Assistant Director
Central Reference

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